

0.a. Goal

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

0.b. Target

Target 17.3: Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources

0.c. Indicator

Indicator 17.3.1: Foreign direct investment, official development assistance and South-South cooperation as a proportion of gross national income

0.e. Metadata update

2021-12-06

0.g. International organisations(s) responsible for global monitoring

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

1.a. Organisation

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

2.a. Definition and concepts

Definition:

FDI part: FDI inflows (expressed in millions of US dollars)

Concepts:

Foreign direct investment (FDI) is defined as an investment involving a long-term relationship and reflecting a lasting interest and control by a resident entity in one economy (foreign direct investor or parent enterprise) in an enterprise resident in an economy other than

that of the foreign direct investor (FDI enterprise or affiliate enterprise or foreign affiliate). Please see the Methodological Note of UNCTAD's World Investment Report

https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/wir2020chMethodNote_en.pdf

3.a. Data sources

UNCTAD has been collecting FDI data by relevant national authorities, such as central banks and statistical offices (please see here for the sources and methodology of data for each economy https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/wir2020chMethodNote_en.pdf)

3.b. Data collection method

FDI data: In compiling FDI inflows published data and websites of national sources were consulted first. Requests were then made to national official sources of all economies for verification and/or updates and supplementary data.

3.c. Data collection calendar

April 2021

3.d. Data release calendar

June 2021

3.e. Data providers

FDI data are provided by relevant national authorities, such as central banks and statistical offices (please see here for the sources and methodology of data for each economy https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/wir2020chMethodNote_en.pdf)

3.f. Data compilers

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

4.a. Rationale

FDI has been the largest source of external finance for developing economies over the past decade, and the most resilient to economic and financial shocks.

4.b. Comment and limitations

FDI inflows are available from 1980 onwards.

4.c. Method of computation

UNCTAD regularly collects published and unpublished national official FDI data flows directly from central banks, statistical offices or national authorities.

4.f. Treatment of missing values (i) at country level and (ii) at regional level

- At country level

FDI data: estimated by annualizing the data or using mirror data.

- At regional and global levels

FDI data: None

4.g. Regional aggregations

FDI data can be broken down by country and region.

4.h. Methods and guidance available to countries for the compilation of the data at the national level

Methods and guidance available to countries for the compilation of the data at the national level:

- International Monetary Fund, Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, sixth edition (<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/bop/2007/pdf/bpm6.pdf>)
- OECD Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment, fourth edition (<https://www.oecd.org/daf/inv/investmentstatisticsandanalysis/40193734.pdf>).
- UNCTAD Training Manual on Statistics for FDI and the Operations of TNCs (https://unctad.org/en/Docs/diaeia20091_en.pdf)

5. Data availability and disaggregation

Data availability

Around 200 economies report FDI inflows data.

Time series:

1980-2019

Disaggregation:

FDI inflows data can be disaggregated at the country level.

6. Comparability/deviation from international standards

Sources of discrepancies:

FDI data are continually revised, updated and corrected by relevant national authorities, such as central banks and statistical offices, which provide FDI data to UNCTAD.

7. References and Documentation

URL: <https://unctad.org/en/Pages/DIAE/FDI%20Statistics/FDI-Statistics.aspx>

References: https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/wir2020chMethodNote_en.pdf